

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 12-15, and 22-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 7,078,607 to Alferness (hereinafter “Alferness”). Claims 12-15 and 22-31 are being canceled and have been replaced with the following claims.

32 [New] A method for enhancing playback of one or more pre-recorded audio or video performances of a composition (collectively “Media Files”) comprising the steps of:

- a. Retrieving two or more media files from storage;
- b. Compiling two or more pre-recorded Media Files into a Collection;
- c. Applying a software program (a “Control Program”) to said Collection, such Control Program linking one or more conditional requirements to at least one Media File in the Collection;

- d. Restricting playback of at least one Media File until one or more of the conditional requirements associated with such Media File in the Control Program have been met.

33 [New] The method of claim 32, wherein the step of compiling Media Files into a Collection includes the step of compiling one or more Media Files that store different performances of the same song composition (a “Song Bundle”).

34 [New] The method of claim 33, wherein the Media Files in a Song Bundle store performances that vary in at least one of the following: style, instrumentation, or length.

35 [New] The method of claim 34, wherein the Control Program includes a conditional requirements that restricts playback of at least one Media File in a Song Bundle until at least one other Media File in a Song Bundle has been played.

36 [New] The method of claim 32, wherein the Control Program includes conditional requirements that restrict playback of at least one Media File based on the current calendar date.

37 [New] The method of claim 32, wherein the Control Program includes conditional requirements that restrict playback of at least one Media File based on the current time of day.

38 [New] The method of Claim 32, wherein the Control Program performs the additional step of generating a control track for embedding one or more conditional requirements with the Media Files for use during playback.

39 [New] The method of Claim 32, wherein the step of retrieving audio compositions includes obtaining them from a server on the Internet.

40 [New] The method of claim 32, wherein the step of retrieving Media Files includes retrieving them from a DVD.

41 [New] The method of Claim 32, wherein one of the conditional requirements for playback of a Media File set forth in the Control Program includes access to a server on the Internet connection.

42 [New] The method of Claim 41, such method further including the step of retrieving one of more additional conditional requirements via the required Internet connection from said server (collectively "Internet Requirements").

43 [New] The method of claim 42, such method including the additional step of storing the Internet Requirements into the Control Program.

44 [New] The method of claim 43, wherein the Internet Requirements include the requirement that the user perform one or more actions using the Internet connection.

45 [New] The method of claim 32, wherein the Control Program includes sequencing requirements that require playback of a Media File in a Collection only if it is being played in the sequence specified in such sequencing requirements.

46 [New] The method of claim 45, wherein the Media Files in the Collection are video files.

47 [New] The method of claim 46, wherein the video files are based on one or more segments of a movie.

48 [New] The method of claim 47, wherein the sequencing requirements of one or more Media Files are dynamically generated based on the first Media File that was selected by a user for playback.

49 [New] The method of claim 48, wherein the sequencing requirements of one or more Media Files are dynamically generated based on the Media Files that were previously played back by a user.

50 [New] A system for enhancing playback of one or more pre-recorded Media Files comprising:

- a. Digital memory for storing two or more Media Files;
- b. A retrieval mechanism for retrieving two or Media Files from storage and creating a Collection;
- c. A software program (a "Control Program") capable of associating one or more conditional requirements to at least one Media File in the Collection and writing it to a control track;
- d. A playback mechanism that is capable of interpreting the control track and restricting playback of at least one media file until such conditional requirements have been met.